

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**A. Examiner's Item 1 Objection Under 35 USC 132(a)**

Applicant has cancelled the subject "new matter" in the amended Claims and Specification by removing references to "other connecting means" and "other shaft connecting means." Applicant acknowledges Examiner has full discretion in accepting or denying this Amendment After Final and respectfully requests consideration of the amended Claims and Specification herein since all "new matter" has been removed per Examiner's recommendations. Examiner stated in both August 1, 2006 item 9 and January 31, 2007 Office Actions that Claims 1-11 would be allowable if the "new matter" objections were removed.

B. Examiner's Item 2 Objection to Specification re "Informalities" (a-d)

Examiner correctly noted Applicant's multiple use of differing phrases when referring to the same reference numbers (1, 10, 11, 16 and 17) resulting in unnecessary confusion. Reference No. 1 is now consistently referred to as "forward extending section", 10 as "rearward extending sight line" of Figures 1-3, 11 as "forward extending sight line" of Figures 1-3, 16 as "forwarding extending sight line" of Figures 4-6, and 17 as "rearward extending sight line" of Figures 4-6.

C. Examiner's Item 3 Objection to and Item 4 Approval of the Drawings Under 37 CFR 1.83(a)

Per Examiner's suggestion, Applicant has removed specific "hosel, hole, socket or other shaft connecting means" from the Claims because they were not required and not adequately described in the Drawings and Specification. Removal of the above specific inadequately described shaft to putterhead connections from the Claims should make the December 1, 2006 Replacement Drawings, otherwise approved by the Examiner (Office Action Item 4) acceptable (except for any requirement of post Notice of Allowance Formal Drawings).

D. Rejection of Claims 1-11 Under 35 USC 112, second paragraph

Claims 2-11 were directly or secondarily dependent on Claim 1 which Examiner deemed to be indefinite in that the terms "other shaft connecting means" was indefinite. Amended Claim 1 enclosed removes reference to "a hosel, hole, rod, socket, or other shaft connecting means" and should, therefore, be in a condition for allowance.

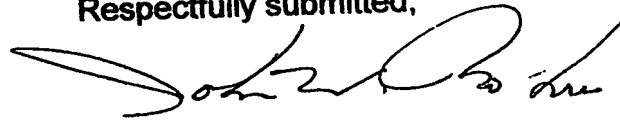
Reference in Claims 3, 5 and 6 to "said connecting means" (of Claim 1) have likewise been removed and replaced with the "shaft connection" claimed and described in Claim 1 and the Specification. Claims 3 and 5 also use "forward extending sight line" or "said sight lines" rather than "sight or aim line" for consistency with element reference numbers 10 and 11 per the amended Specification. Other than replacement of "shaft

connecting means" as in Claims 3 and 5, Claim 6 is reworded for improved clarity only.
Applicant is willing to accept either language, as Examiner prefers.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully maintains that the amended Claims and Specification now place the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Rohrer", written in a cursive style.

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Fig. 6 is a plan view of the embodiment of Fig. 4 with half of a golf ball below the forward extended hosel.

Fig. 7 is a plan view of another preferred embodiment of the present invention with a hosel similar to the embodiment of Figs. 4, 5, and 6 but with a major or majority portion of putterhead weight concentrated within a mass ring concentric about and remote from the putterhead center of gravity.

Description of the Preferred Embodiments

Referring to the Drawings, Figs. 1, 2 and 3 describe frontal or putterface elevational, side elevational and plan views, respectively, of one embodiment of the present invention in which the forward extending section 1 protrudes forward, generally horizontally, from the putterface 2 above the intended strikepoint 15 at an elevation above the putter soleplane equal to or greater than the diameter of a golf ball (1.68 inches or 4.27 mm) thus avoiding interference or contact with said hosel when a ball is being struck by said putter. In this embodiment said forward extending section 1, protrudes forward from the face a distance approximately equal to a golf ball. The lateral 3 and upward 4 shaft connecting hosel sections are so arranged that the putter shaft 5 does not obscure any portion of a golf ball 6 when viewed from above (Fig. 3). Alternatively, said shaft connecting hosel sections 3 and 4 may be replaced by a bent lower shaft section (not shown). The sight line on the top surface of the forward extending section 1, the "forward extending sight line" 11, and the "rearward extending sight line" 10 on the top surface of the rearward extension 7, together provide a longer sight line than would otherwise be possible without addition of said forward extending section 1 with said forward extending sight line 11. Said rearward extension 7 does not function as a hosel (shaft to clubhead connection), but provides or supports said

rearward extending sight line 10, and may help support the faceplate 2 and said forward extending section 1 through (not shown) or above it (shown), or the sole 8. In this embodiment, the distance between the sole plane of the putterhead 8 and the straight shaft connection point 9 is equal to or slightly less than 5 inches or 12.7 mm as currently required under The USGA Rules of Golf. The end of said upward hosel section 4 is fitted with a stop surface 9 and a slip over protrusion or rod 30 (shown) or socket (not shown) for receiving and attaching via adhesive or other means, a puttershaft 5. That portion of the putterhead with said rearward extension 7 with rearward sight line 10 on top, protruding rearward from the putterface 2 has a length equal to or slightly less than the horizontal width of said putterhead 2. Said forward extending sight line 11 and rearward extending sight line 10 above said forward extending section 1 and rearward extension 7, respectively, are preferably of one color or finish (shown), contrasting with any adjacent putterhead portions visible to a golfer from above, or have a black or dark line (not shown) centered on said surface 10.

Figs. 4, 5, and 6 show a preferred embodiment of the present invention where the forward hosel section 12 extends approximately 1/2 golf ball diameter forward of the putterface 2. The lateral hosel section 13 is longer and may be of thinner section than in the prior embodiment (3 in Figs. 1, 2 and 3). This makes this section 13 and the lower shaft 5 less visible when viewed by a golfer from above (Figs. 3 and 6). To further reduce the shaft connecting hosel section visibility and any related sighting distraction, that portion of the lateral hosel section 3 or 13 or bent lower shaft lying over a golf ball (which ball 6 is touching or near the putterface 2 at or near the intended strikepoint 15) can be painted or finished white or light in color to take such hosel section 3 or 13 out of optical view and blend with the ball below it. To further enhance the sight picture when viewed by a golfer from above, the first several inches of the golf shaft 5 near the hosel

and now directly over the ball can be painted or finished dull green or other dark non-glossy color.

Said rearward extending sight line 10 and forward extending sight line 11 may be on one level, per Figs. 1, 2, and 3 or of differing levels, per the forward extending sight line 16 and rearward extending sight line 17 in Figs. 4, 5, and 6. These sight lines, 16 and 17, may be preferably of white or light finish with a contrasting black or dark sight or aim line 20 (as shown in Fig. 6) or of a single color. The top surface of the putter sole 18 and any other putter surfaces visible to a golfer from above can be of a color contrasting with the color of 10, 16 or 17. In the preferred embodiment of Fig. 6, that portion of the sole plate 18 and other putterhead surfaces visible to a golfer from above which are within 1/2 golf ball diameter of the centerline are of light or white finish, while more remote surfaces, 19 and 20, are of a contrasting dull dark or green finish to take them out of optical view. In this manner, the light or white surfaces, being centered and of approximately one ball diameter in width, establish a sighting field which includes, and is extended by, the golf ball 6 near or contacting the strikepoint 15 of the putterface 2 when viewed by a golfer from above at address. An aim line 20, preferably dark or black, centered on the top surface of the forward extending sight line 16 and rearward extending sight line 17 or the entire top surfaces of 16 and 17, of dark or black finish, can be further extended by placing a dark or black partial or full circumferenced line 21 of similar width on an equator of the golf ball and orientating such line toward the target prior to addressing the ball with a putterhead of the present invention.

Fig. 5 shows that the rearward extension 7 need not be of solid construction to reduce or redistribute putterhead weight. This rearward extension 7 may contain holes or apertures 23, or be made of lighter weight materials (not shown), or supported by structural members 22.

Fig. 7 describes a putterhead of the present invention differing from the prior embodiments with respect to weight distribution within the putterhead. A major or majority portion of putterhead weight is located within a "mass ring" which ring has an outside diameter equal to the maximum horizontal plane distance between the putterhead center of gravity, and an inside diameter equal to 75% of said outside diameter. This weight distribution produces putterheads of extremely high Moment of Inertia (MOI) which reduces distance loss and misdirection whenever a ball is struck on the putterface 2 at a point remote from the intended strikepoint 15 which is directly in front of the putterhead center of gravity point 24.

1. **(Currently Amended) A golf putterhead having a strikeface with an intended strikepoint, and a bottom sole, said putterhead also having a forward extending section extending generally horizontally forward from the top of said strikeface a distance of 1/4 to 1 ball diameter from a location approximately 1/2 ball diameter or more above said intended strikepoint which is above the horizontal sole plane, said forward extending section being in a vertical plane normal to said strikeface, before said forward extending section connects at or near the forward end of said forward extending section to a straight or bent golf shaft to the player side of said forward extending section, said forward extending section having a top surface or markings thereon, the forward extending sight line, which serves as an unobstructed sight or aim line toward the intended target, said forward extending section also increasing the static balance moment of the putterhead about said shaft by increasing the distance between the putterhead center of mass and the shaft axis, said putterhead also having a rearward putterhead extension with a rearward sight line on top of it with substantially the same top surface or markings as said forward extending sight line, said rearward putterhead extension being integral with or in rigid communication with said putterhead bottom sole, said rearward putterhead extension being in the same vertical plane as said forward extending section at the same or differing top surface elevation of said forward extending section, said rearward putterhead extension with said rearward sight line extending rearward from said**

putterface a distance of at least twice said forward extending section with said forward extending sight line length and not exceeding the width of said putterhead, said rearward extending sight line adding to and substantially lengthening the total sight or aim line length of said putterhead.

2. (Previously Presented) The putterhead of Claim 1 wherein said forward extending section with said forward extending sight line extends forward from the strikeface approximately $1/4$ to $1/2$ a ball diameter.
3. (Currently Amended) The putterhead of Claim 1 wherein said shaft connection extends $1/4$ to 1 ball diameter in a direction generally normal to said forward extending section towards the golfer in such a manner as to not visually distract from or interrupt said forward extending sight line formed by the top surface or markings on said forward extending section and such that said shaft connection does not substantially reduce the golfer's view of the ball and wherein said shaft connection is arranged such that a putter with such putterhead is statically face balanced by having the shaft axis intersecting the vertical putterhead center line plane normal to the strikeface at approximately the same elevation as the clubhead center of gravity.

4. **(Previously Presented) The putterhead of Claim 1 wherein said forward extending sight line and said rearward putterhead extension with rearward sight line both have a sight or aim line of 0.025 to 0.5 inch width on the upper horizontal portion or central portion thereof with any adjacent putterhead portions, visible from above by the golfer, being of a differing or contrasting color or finish.**
5. **(Currently Amended) The putterhead of Claim 4 wherein said sight lines are black or other dark finish while any portion of said shaft or shaft connection lying above a golf ball contacting the intended strikepoint of said putterhead, has a white or light finish such that it visually blends in with a golf ball centered under said forward extending hosel section.**
6. **(Currently Amended) The putterhead of Claim 1 wherein that portion of said shaft connection or the bottom portion of a straight or bent golf shaft connecting to said putterhead, which is not over a golf ball contacting the intended strikepoint, is finished or colored dull green or another dark or non-reflective color such that said hosel or shaft sections are less visible and blend into the grass background when viewed by a golfer from above.**

7. **(Currently Amended) The putterhead of Claim 1 used in conjunction with a golf ball marked with a dark line of a width approximately the width of said sight lines, along all or a portion of the ball's circumference or equator, which line the golfer aims at the target.**
8. **(Previously Presented) The putterhead of Claim 1 wherein the weight of said rearward putterhead extension is reduced via one or more holes or apertures, the use of light weight materials, the use of thin section materials or combinations thereof.**
9. **(Previously Presented) The putterhead of Claim 1 wherein the moment of inertia about the putterhead's center of gravity is increased by placing a major or majority portion of the putterhead's weight within 3 or more locations within a mass ring located between 75% and 100% of said putterhead's maximum horizontal distance from said putterhead center of gravity.**
10. **(Currently Amended) The putterhead of Claim 1 wherein at least the forward most portion of said forward extending section or the lower shaft section proximate to it is made of or weighted with a heavy metal such as tungsten or lead to increase said putterhead's moment of inertia.**

11. **(Currently Amended) The putterhead of Claim 1 wherein putterhead surfaces are provided within approximately one golf ball radius of the center of said rearward aim or sight line, visible to a golfer from above, said surfaces being of white or light surface finish providing a golf ball width sighting field while those remaining golfer visible putterhead surfaces adjacent to or more remote from said sighting field, which may include said sight lines, are of contrasting dark, black or green finish reducing their optical visibility, said ball width sighting field being extended in length by a golf ball at address in front of said putterhead strikepoint and below said forward extending sight line.**